

TOOLS: Grant Resources for Houses of Worship

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Funding Resources on the FCGG website

<https://fcgg.org/toolkit/>

Go to Funding Resources and then

1. About box

Research grant funding opportunities.

Granting foundations look favorably on organizations that can match the requested dollars. By taking the step, you can provide evidence that you have matching money available.

Write a winning grant application.

The Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library Nonprofit Grants Department supporting both experienced and beginner grant writers. Their staff will guide you on how to find appropriate grant opportunities and how to use their enormous database. They also offer instructional classes on how to write a successful grant application. They also provide one-on-one support. Start here, <https://cincinnati.library.org/services/grants/>

PACE financing tool.

PACE financing might be right for you. It enables commercial property owners to finance up to 100% of energy efficiency improvements. Financing is provided by private capital providers at competitive rates with some repayment terms up to 30 years. It is a tool generally used by for-profit organizations. We understand that in some cases PACE financing can be used for nonprofit organizations.

2. Funding Resources box

Faith and Environment Grants:

This list of examples of grants for Faith and Environment is from a collaborative effort of volunteers who, through research at the Cincinnati Library Grant Department. The compiled lists of grants with brief descriptions was completed August 1, 2021.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EsudatnyNuxCSnEgeypOr2z B6-UwbN6z/edit?](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EsudatnyNuxCSnEgeypOr2z B6-UwbN6z/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105227014932293789738&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[usp=sharing&oid=105227014932293789738&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EsudatnyNuxCSnEgeypOr2z B6-UwbN6z/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105227014932293789738&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Denominational Resources:

Many denominations have programs to encourage their congregations to go green. Many programs provide Green Team organizational guidance and recognition. Some provide funding (grants or loans).

<https://fcgg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Funding-Resources-revised.pdf>

LOCAL, Southwest Ohio:

GREEN CINCINNATI PLAN SEEDS OF CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/green-cincinnati-plan/seeds-of-change-grant-program/>

The Green Cincinnati Plan Seeds of Change Grant Program is an initiative led by the City of Cincinnati's Office of Environment and Sustainability. The Program provides funding for community-initiated projects that align with the Green Cincinnati Plan's priorities. The grant program aims to support sustainable, equitable, and resilient efforts that relieve burdens and increase benefits for those most affected by climate change in Cincinnati.

The GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program has granted \$712,451.82 since its inception in 2024. OES and partners remain committed to providing at least \$1 million in resources through this program by the end of 2027.

Greater Cincinnati Foundation

<https://www.gcfdn.org>

- 1. Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) and the City of Cincinnati are pleased to announce the next round of Boots on the Ground Fund grants,** continuing our commitment to strengthening the capacity of small, community-based organizations driving meaningful change in our region. Grants up to \$25,000. Application deadline was March 13, but the grant will be offered again. Watch for next round.
<https://www.gcfdn.org/nonprofits/funding-opportunities/rfp-capacity-building/rfp-boots-on-the-ground/>
- 2. The Better Together Fund** demonstrates the power of shared purpose and collective action. When funders, capacity builders, and service providers bring together their collective strengths, they can create more impact than any single organization could achieve alone. Planning for the next Better Together Fund cycle is already underway, with an anticipated launch in 2026.
<https://www.gcfdn.org/blog/greater-cincinnati-foundation-and-partners-grant-1-5-million-to-strengthen-nonprofits-through-the-better-together-fund/>

3. Nonprofits are invited to collaborate in other grant cycles, including the **Building Bright Futures** education RFP and applicable community and cultural vibrancy RFP cycles. When open, these opportunities for organizations will be posted on [our website here](https://www.gcfnd.org/nonprofits/funding-opportunities/) <https://www.gcfnd.org/nonprofits/funding-opportunities/>. To receive funding updates directly in your inbox, [sign up for our grantmaking outreach newsletter here](https://www.gcfnd.org/nonprofits/sign-up/): <https://www.gcfnd.org/nonprofits/sign-up/>

4. Resilient Communities

To strengthen the fabric of our community, we invest in community-led solutions that empower residents to shape decisions that affect their lives through advocacy, organizing, and civic engagement. RFP release Spring 2026. Great awards up to \$35,000.

<https://www.gcfnd.org/nonprofits/funding-opportunities/rfps/>

Hamilton County

Hamilton County supports houses of worship and faith-based organizations primarily through grants from the [United Way of Greater Cincinnati](https://www.uwgc.org/), partners with grassroots and faith-based organizations that are key stakeholders in underserved communities. These collaborations address systemic challenges and create meaningful impact in the communities they serve. Key support areas include funding for food pantries, clothing, rent assistance, and community outreach.

<https://www.uwgc.org/partner-with-us/funded-partners/>

STATE, Ohio:

1. Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (AQDA)

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) is one of OAQDA's resources for property owners looking to upgrade their buildings and facilities and save on operating costs through eligible air quality and energy improvements. This tool leverages the partnership involving the local government, where the project is located, to approve the special assessment levied on the property and OAQDA to include the PACE assessment as part of the revenue bond issued for the project. The benefits allow businesses to access capital at lower

borrowing costs for investments in cleaner, more efficient technologies such as pollution control, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

<https://ohioairquality.ohio.gov/incentives-and-financing/property-assessed-clean-energy/03-property-assessed-clean-energy>

2. Grants from The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)

provides grants through state funding resources for eligible projects that demonstrate a reduction in energy usage and associated costs, avoidance of fossil fuel emissions and the creation and/or retention of jobs. Each grant is offered once or twice a year.

- a. **The Advanced Energy Fund** provides grant funds for Ohio businesses, non-profit organizations, and public entities to complete energy efficiency and advanced energy projects. Projects are evaluated on technical criteria that will result in significant energy and cost savings. Funding is offered twice a year. *As of March 18, the application period is now closed for this round.*

<https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/advanced-energy-fund-grant>

- b. **The Ohio Energy Efficiency Program (OEEP)** provides grant funds to Ohio businesses, nonprofits, and public entities to complete energy efficiency and advanced energy projects. Projects are evaluated on technical criteria that will result in significant energy and cost savings. Eligible applicants must submit an American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Level II energy audit during the application process that is less than two years old. *As of March 18, the application period is now closed for this round.*

<https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/state-energy-program>

- c. **Ohio Energy Loan Fund** helps small businesses, manufacturers, nonprofits, and local governments implement energy efficiency improvements to lower energy use and costs. Through the Energy Loan Fund eligible applicants receive low-interest financing to install efficiency measures that reduce energy by at least 15%. Technical assistance is also available to facilitate the required energy audit for potential applicants. Low-interest loans are available through the fund.

Loan amounts vary depending on the project and can be from \$250,000 up to \$1 million. Technical assistance is also available to help eligible applicants identify energy efficiency measures for their facility. **Applications are now open.**

<https://development.ohio.gov/business/redevelopment/energy-loan-fund>

- d. **Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF)** The OEEF was created in 1990 to enhance Ohio citizens' awareness and understanding of environmental issues. It is administered by the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) and provides approximately \$700,000 annually in grants to support environmental education efforts within the state of Ohio. The OEEF funds education projects that target three audiences: (1) the general public; (2) the regulated community; and (3) pre-school through university students and teachers. Grants are available at two funding levels, \$500-\$5,000 or \$5,000-\$50,000. **The next round opens in July, 2026.**

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-education/grant-programs/ohio-environmental-education-fund>

NATIONAL

1. Lawyers for Good Government

Welcome to L4GG's Elective Pay Sprint!

<https://www.lawyersforgoodgovernment.org/elective-pay-sprint>

We are here to help you navigate the complex landscape of clean energy tax credits in the wake of the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA, or H.R. 1). As the tax credit requirements grow more elaborate and the timelines shrink, L4GG and our network of partners want you to be able to maximize every dollar of IRA clean energy funding while the credits remain available.

For projects that are both seeking tax credits and are funded by federal grants or loans, L4GG also provides specialized legal guidance and resources for navigating and ensuring compliance with [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\)](#) requirements. This is available through our Elective Pay Assistance pipeline.

2. **Solar Moonshot Program**

Providing clean energy to nonprofits making a difference. The Solar Moonshot Program is helping nonprofit organizations across the United States afford the switch to clean energy. Grants up to \$25,000 are typically awarded, with grant amounts dependent on various factors, including the organization's need for funding. Grant priority is given to solar projects that have additional funding sources, projects located in Communities of Concern, projects serving youth and schools. They also offer short-term, low-interest recoverable grants for project costs offset by the Investment Tax Credit. They do not fund houses of worship unless the house of worship has significant community ministries.

<https://www.hcs.foundation/solar-moonshot-program>

3. **RE-volv Solar**

RE-volv is an equity-informed, clean energy access organization that helps nonprofits in underinvested communities across the country go solar, while raising awareness about equitable climate solutions and training the next generation of clean energy leaders. An accredited local solar installer installs your solar panel system. **Nonprofits put zero money down.** Nonprofits save 15% or more on their electricity bills from day one and lock in electricity rates for years through RE-volv's Solar Lease, PPA or Loan financing options. With RE-volv's Solar Lease and PPA financing options, all warranties, operations and maintenance are covered. <https://re-volv.org/about-us/re-volv>

4. **Collective Sun, MAKING SOLAR A REALITY FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Our team uses its knowledge of solar engineering, nonprofit solar finance solutions, and project management to walk you through the entire proposal and installation process. Our goal is for you to end up with a solar system that reduces your carbon footprint and is a \$0 down investment with a positive cash flow from day one, so it has an immediate impact on your bottom line that allows you to concentrate on your mission. <https://collectivesun.com/nonprofits/>

5. **Contact** Facilities@fcgg.org for information about a possible community solar project.

